



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2003

No. 49

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OTTER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 26, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Ed Sears, Pastor, Grace Baptist Temple, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, Father of Nations. We come into Your presence this day asking for Your blessing and Your help. Your Holy Word admonishes us to pray for those in authority over us. Therefore, Lord, we lift the men and women of the 108th United States Congress to You. Remind them of past blessings and present responsibilities. Exhort them to personal integrity and empower them with truth and honor to carry out the awesome task of government.

We would ask also that our President, George W. Bush, be granted the wisdom and ability to lead us in accordance with Your divine plan.

Please, Lord, give protection to the men and women in our Nation's military as they are placed in harm's way. Grant victory quickly. We make these petitions because of Your grace and mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ we humbly pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. KAPTUR led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND ED SEARS, PASTOR, GRACE BAPTIST TEMPLE, WINSTON-SALEM, NC

(Mr. BURR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure that I rise today in recognition of our guest chaplain, the Reverend Ed Sears of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He is a blessing to our community, and it is an honor to have him in Washington and in this House today.

Reverend Sears is the senior pastor at Grace Baptist Temple in Winston-Salem. He has been faithfully serving this congregation of over 1,000 members for the past 22 years. His faithfulness to the ministry and gift of leadership extends into his work as a teacher at the Piedmont Baptist College and Calvary Baptist College. His service on various leadership boards, such as the General Council of Baptist Mid-Missions and his chairmanship of the Board of Trustees of the Baptist World Missionary Outreach Ministries, is only a partial list of his extensive community service.

Reverend Sears has been happily married for 36 years. He is joined today

by his wife, Linda, and also by their daughter, Heather.

I want to thank Reverend Sears for his commitment to his ministry and to our community and take this opportunity to welcome him to the United States Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to have Reverend Sears open the House of Representatives with prayer this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minutes on each side.

FDA STARTING NEW DRUG WAR

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, a new drug war is starting. The first shots have been fired by the FDA. Those shots are being fired at American seniors. This is a dumb fight, dumbly fought.

The Bush administration, which claims to support open markets, must decide whether it will stand with American consumers or with the new elitist drug lords that run the multinational pharmaceutical industry.

The FDA has decided to use the iron fist of the Federal Government to defend the abusive monopolistic practices of those drug lords. This is a policy and political mistake of historic proportions.

Who is the FDA really trying to protect? Surely Teddy Roosevelt is rolling in his grave.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H2313

RECOGNIZING HELEN HUTT AND HER 75 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Helen Hutt, joining us in our gallery, a distinguished citizen from Ohio. When Helen first began her service to the American Red Cross, Calvin Coolidge was President of the United States, a first-class stamp cost 2 cents, and the first Academy Awards were presented. That was 1928. Since that time, Helen has touched countless lives through her 75 years of service to the American Red Cross.

Helen began her involvement with the Red Cross in 1928 when she became certified to teach swimming lessons. During World War II, she worked in the South Pacific as a "Doughnut Dolly," serving GIs coffee and doughnuts. In the 1950s and 1960s, she organized a "Learn to Swim" program for Port Clinton children and the blind. Helen worked as a local Disaster Relief Volunteer during the 1970s, and then volunteered at Magruder Hospital recruiting blood donors and sharing expertise with the Ottawa County Advisory Board. She is still an active volunteer for the Ottawa County district office of the Red Cross.

Throughout her years of volunteerism, Helen has received numerous honors, including the Volunteer of the Year Award for the Ottawa County District, and the highest local award for the Red Cross that it ever bestows, the Clara Barton Volunteer Leadership Award.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that this incredible American now is over 90 years of age and she will be receiving her 75-year volunteer pin at the National Red Cross Headquarters here in Washington, D.C., I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this magnificent American.

Congratulations. We are so very, very proud of you, Helen Hutt.

SIMPLE SAVINGS TAX RELIEF ACT

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the House will soon mark up tax legislation, including the elimination of dividend double taxation. I propose we also provide tax relief for interest earned from savings in bank accounts. I have introduced the Simple Savings Tax Relief Act, H.R. 1163, which would help all savers, including those in lower-income levels who do not earn corporate dividends.

Like dividend recipients, bank and credit union customers report interest as income to the IRS, increasing their tax burden. Let us not punish those who invest for a rainy day. Let us encourage them.

In 1998, the Joint Economic Committee wrote that exemption of interest from taxation is a significant economic step we should take, and "such a proposal would primarily benefit the low- and middle-income taxpayers."

H.R. 1163 would permit a single filer to earn up to \$200, \$400 for a joint filer, in bank account interest tax-free.

It is very simple: let us help those who are primarily low- and middle-income taxpayers today.

HONORING AMERICA'S SERVICEWOMEN

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month, to pay tribute to the dedication and courage of the millions of women who have served in the United States Armed Services.

Since the earliest days of our Nation, women have played an integral part in our military operations, either behind the front lines or in actual combat. As far back as the Revolutionary War, there are stories of women who posed as men so that they could go and fight at the frontline. Others offered their services as nurses. Still others worked to support the war movement by leaving their domestic roles to take on jobs that were necessary to maintain the Nation's economy.

More recently, the role of women in the armed services has greatly expanded. In 1978, women began to be assigned to duty aboard ships; in 1991, women were assigned to aircraft in both the Air Force and the Navy; and by 1994, the ban on women on combat ships was lifted, allowing women greater opportunities in our armed services.

As the war in the Persian Gulf looms ahead, we send our thanks and support to all our members of the armed services. But let us not forget the women and their contributions in this time of need.

ROLE OF THE RURAL EDUCATION CAUCUS

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, schools in rural districts face a barrage of problems unheard of in more populous areas. Country schools have continually had to confront the one-size-fits-all mentality of Washington, DC, when it comes to Federal education policy. For rural States like Montana, the sun always seems to set on the Potomac, where policymakers seem to ignore the rest of the map stretching 3,000 miles beyond that river.

In my home State, our schools fight year after year to come up with enough funding to cover the federally man-

dated Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, IDEA. In just 5 years, the estimated Federal shortfall in IDEA funding has cost my State nearly \$93 million, money that larger and wealthier school districts in more populous States can easily afford; but in Montana it is real money that comes out of funds for new teachers, computers, books and Internet access.

Our families in western and rural States deserve the same access to quality education for their children that urban families have. That is why I, along with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON), have formed the bipartisan Rural Education Caucus. Together we have come together to devise solutions to the unique problems associated with the business of educating children in rural areas.

INVEST IN CHILDREN, THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have declared this week Children's Week. Their actions, however, speak louder than their words.

Last week they pushed for a budget that fails children and fails families. The Republican budget that barely passed fell \$6.15 billion short for funding title I, the largest source of Federal education aid to disadvantaged youth and the centerpiece of the Bush education reform program. It cut \$81 million from programs to improve State and local teacher quality, which was a stated goal of the President's education reform plan.

We must remember, Mr. Speaker, that the biggest challenge facing American families is how to bridge their responsibilities between work and caring for their children, and the budget that passed last week did nothing to help working parents.

Mr. Speaker, if my colleagues want to support children, they will not shy away from promises for our children in favor of big-money special interests. They will invest in children. Children are 25 percent of our population. They are 100 percent of our future.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL DAVID FRIBLEY

(Mr. SOUDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart I stand before you today. Near An Nasiriyah, Iraq, Marine Lance Corporal David K. Fribley, from Atwood, Indiana, and seven of his fellow Marines were killed in the opening march of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Reports of the incident indicate that a